

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10961 010533Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SSM-03 IO-13 TRSE-00 /092 W  
-----018627 010537Z /12

R 301542Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6795  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/EC J-2

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EG  
SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE COMMANDER

REF: CAIRO 10700

1. LOCAL DAILIES JUNE 30 DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION  
TO PRESS CONFERENCE PREVIOUS DAY BY EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE  
COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL HILMY AFIFI ON OCCASION OF AIR  
DEFENSE DAY. THRUST OF ARTICLES SELF-CONFIDENT  
(AHRAM HEADLINE: "EGYPT DEVELOPING AIR DEFENSE TO BE  
GREATER THAN IN OCTOBER 1973"), BUT AFIFI COMMENTS  
INDICATE THAT AIR DEFENSE FORCES FACING PROBLEMS IN  
MAINTAINING OPTIMUM READINESS. AFIFI NOTED THAT NO  
NEW MISSILES HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM SOVIETS SINCE  
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OCTOBER WAR, BUT ADDED THAT SOME SUPPLEMENTARY EQUIPMENT  
HAD BEEN MANUFACTURED BY AIO WHICH "RAISED COMBAT EF-  
FICIENCY OF ALREADY AVAILABLE WEAPONS". AFIFI LAUDED  
SADAT'S WEAPONS DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM, BRAVELY PREDICTING  
THAT COMBINATION OF SOVIET AND WESTERN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY  
WILL GIVE EGYPT "BEST EQUIPMENT FOR NEXT BATTLE".

2. GENERAL AFIFI PRAISED RESEARCH EFFORTS BY EGYPTIAN MILITARY SCIENTISTS WHICH HAVE STRENGTHENED EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AGAINST LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT. IN ADDITION, ADVANCES IN ELECTRONIC COUNTER-MEASURES HAD BEEN IMPRESSIVE. GENERAL AFIFI CONCLUDED THAT EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE WOULD REMAIN IN STATE OF "MENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFLICT" WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPTIANS NO LONGER NEEDED TO HEED MYTHS OF PRE-1973 CONCERNING "LONG ISRAELI AIR ARM" OR "LEGENDARY" QUALITY OF ISRAELI PILOTS.

3. COMMENT: PRESS CONFERENCES BY EGYPTIAN GENERALS ARE RARE AND AFIFI'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS CONTINUATION OF CAMPAIGN (REFTEL) TO STRENGTHEN EGYPT'S NEGOTIATING STANCE AND ASSURE PUBLIC AND MILITARY CONCERNING MILITARY READINESS. AFIFI PUTS BEST POSSIBLE GLOSS ON AIR DEFENSE SITUATION, BUT COMMENT THAT DIVERSION "SUITABLE ANSWER" TO SOVIET MILITARY CUTOFF, "UNTIL EGYPT HAS MANAGED TO CREATE ADVANCED MILITARY INDUSTRIES", INDICATES THAT AIR DEFENSE FORCES MAY BE IN PERIOD OF DECLINING READINESS.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONAL OPINION, AIR DEFENSE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO10961  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** 9e77e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 CAIRO 10700  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2095696  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATEMENTS BY EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE COMMANDER  
**TAGS:** MPOL, EG, (AFIFI, HILMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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